
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, December 23,
1817, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Washington Decr. 23. 1817

Dear Sir

Some days elapsed, after the receipt of your letter of the 13, before I could fulfill the injunction, of affording Mr. Mercer an opportunity of perusing, or, it would have been returned, immediately with my signature. I had not nothing to alter in, or to add to it. I hope and think, that it will succeed, in placing the university, where it ought to be; & that, by means of that institution, the character of the State, for distinguishd mental acquirement in its citizens will be maintained in the high rank it has heretofore sustained.

The affair with general Jackson is not terminated; it is however probable that it will be, on just principles, & retain him in service: that of Amelia Island & Galvestown, is also still a cause of concern, tho' the probability is, that the public mind, will discriminate between a banditti, form'd of adventurers of all nations, except the Spanish Colonies, plannd in our own country, & resting for support on presumed impurity within

us, & the cause of the Colonies themselves, to which, we all wish success. It is also probable that the colonies will disavow them. The agent of Buenos Ayres had done it. The allied powers, that is, G. B. & France [tho' the latter has not been so explicit] have

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intimated a desire to arbitrate our differences with Spain, on the ground of making the Miss. the boundary, whence it is inferrd that if we pushed a quarrel with Spain, they would interpose against us. Russia stands aloof. With affectionate respect, James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).